



First local agency to act...

Park district adopts environment agenda

By Roger Matile

The Oswegoland Park District has become the first Kendall County unit of local government to officially adopt an environmental position statement.

Park District Director Bert Gray reported the park district board of commissioners adopted the position statement during a meeting last Thursday.

The position statement, in full, reads: "The public and the Park District are increasingly concerned about environmental issues facing our entire community. It is our intent to have the park district be a role model and assume a supportive partnership role in developing and implementing programs that demonstrate and teach the value and vitality of sound environmental policies, practices, and procedures."

Gray said he hopes the park district will become a model for other local governmental bodies as well.

"In point of fact, we hope we will be a catalyst for other groups in the community," Gray explained. "We thought this was an important enough issue to formally pass a statement outlining our goals."

The statement is followed by a list of 10 environmental principles that Gray

said the district will use to guide their thinking as they begin to develop environmental action plans.

The principles include the use of renewable resources, the conservation of non-renewable resources, reducing waste products, recycling materials and practicing safe waste disposal of material that cannot be recycled, conservation of energy, active promotion of public education on environmental issues, minimizing or eliminating use of pollutants, restriction or elimination of the use of pesticides, adoption of integrated pest management practices, and following a purchasing policy supportive of a positive environmental impact.

Gray said the environmental statement's list of principles will be used each time the district contemplates a program, and will be used to evaluate and assess current operating practices.

"We are serious about the environment and thought an environmental position statement would illustrate our commitment," Gray said.

Gray said he would welcome calls from other local governmental agencies, and added that he hopes all local governments will soon adopt similar position statements on the environment.

a success: official

By John Etheredge

The first of what has been proposed as a series of four joint meetings of local governmental officials proved a success last week, according to organizers.

Oswego Village Board member Mary Distler reported approximately 30 representatives from the village, Oswego School District, Oswegoland Park District, Oswego Public Library District, and the Oswego Fire Protection District attended the meeting last Tuesday in the village.

At Distler's request last fall, the village board agreed to sponsor and schedule the meetings.

In proposing the meetings, Distler said the meetings could serve to improve communications among local taxing districts.

"The communications (among governmental officials) are better now than in previous years, but I don't think they're good enough," she explained. "The only way to improve the situation is to meet."

Distler said no single issue dominated the discussion during last week's 90 minute session.

"I think the people who were there were uncertain really what to expect since we haven't had a meeting like this before," she stated.

While seated behind tables organized in a circle, Distler said the officials did exchange information on various issues, including:

●On behalf of the village, Distler said she outlined proposed plans to construct two new municipal

Kendall Point Business Center of U.S. Route 34 and near Mill Road on the village's far west side.

●Park District Director Bert Gray presented an overview of the district's park development plans in the area.

●Library Board member Ken Allen requested that Waubensee Community College be invited to send a representative to the next intergovernmental meeting. Allen, a dean at the college, noted that the village lies entirely within the college district boundaries.

●Oswego School Board President Cathy Jenkins expressed interest in a plan proposed by Distler to develop a "clinical government" program for Oswego High School students. Distler has suggested that students who enroll in the program could serve internships in the municipal office at Village Hall.

Distler said township officials expressed a desire to become active in the planning for new development in the area. She said she told the officials that village ordinances will allow them to send a representative to the village plan commission meetings as an ex officio member.

To improve communications among the agencies, Distler said officials discussed the possibility of regularly exchanging minutes of meetings.

Distler added that library director Barbara West offered the library as the site for the public posting of the minutes.

The village board approved the scheduling of the remaining three meetings on May 21, Aug. 20 and Nov. 19 of this year.